

Agenda

Tuesday September 22nd, 2020

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM

**Faith-Based working group – G2Z MeckCo. , an Initiative to end HIV in
Mecklenburg County.**

Virtual via zoom – see invite for access details.

Attendees

Tajuanna Washington, Renate Nnoko, Hazel Tap, Judith Cornelius, Matt Jenkins, Gabriella Borden, Tammeka Evans, Bernard Davis, Donte' Prayer, Patrice Marsh, Drucilla Steele, Valerie Davies

1. Welcome/intro (5 mins)

At this time every was given the opportunity to introduce themselves and their organization.


2. Updates: Possibility for publications - Dr. Judy Cornelius (7 mins)

Patrice Marsh, Bernard Davis and Gabriella Borden interested in being a writer for

3. Project F.A.I.T.H (Fostering Aids Initiative That Heal)

Gabriela presented on Project F.A.I.T.H to gain input from the group on what they thought about adopting Project FAITH in Mecklenburg County to build and sustain capacity of Faith Based Organizations in Ending the HIV Epidemic.

Project FAITH is:

 a program used to reduce the stigma associated with HIV within the church

- ✚ Pioneered in SC in 2007
- ✚ Collection of 22 churches
- ✚ 1445 parishioners, 61 pastors/ ministers, and 109 care team members
- ✚ Range between 18-39 years old
- ✚ 80% three denominations: Baptist, African Methodist Episcopal, or United Methodist

Project F. A.I.T.H Surveys

1st Survey

- ✚ Demographics, church affiliation
- ✚ Length of service

2nd Survey

- ✚ 12 items HIV transmission assessment: How likely is a person to get HIV

3rd Survey

- ✚ 20 item knowledge assessment: True or False

4th Survey

- ✚ 6 item stigma assessment

Project F. A.I.T.H Surveys Results

- ✚ Males and parishioners are less knowledgeable and greater HIV-related stigma
- ✚ Overall, study showed the basic understanding of HIV in the church
- ✚ People knew how HIV is transmitted but know little about how it is not transmitted

- ✚ Stigma is still present in the church
- ✚ Testing and education
- ✚ Reason why the church does not educate about HIV

Project F. A.I.T.H Intervention

- **Individually created HIV/AIDs Prevention Plan**

Mandatory

- ✚ World Aids Day, National HIV Testing, Week of Prayer for the healing of Aids, etc.
- ✚ Each church ran and operated their own team
- ✚ Local health resources, financial and evaluation advisor

Everything stayed with the Church

- ✚ Materials, partnership, etc.

Project F. A.I.T.H Intervention Outcomes

- ✚ Fostered program stability
- ✚ Increased HIV/AIDS-related knowledge and change in attitude
- ✚ Church initiated HIV/AIDS conversations
- ✚ Larger churches Partnership with smaller churches




Budget cut, 2011

- ✚ Project F.A.I.T.H ended
- ✚ 70% of churches still have active HIV/AIDS prevention intervention

Questions asked

- I. If we are trying to reduce stigma, why would we only focus on African Americans? **This stigma was based on a publication in process of faith base initiatives. It will be focused on the epidemiological data which focuses on the fact that the African American and Hispanics had the highest rates. We also must start small and think about the time and resources that we have available. Most important we must go back to the data and the data shows African Americans and Hispanics have the highest rates. We are trying to address this group because they have the largest amount of stigma and we are trying to address the biggest problem with the limited amount of resources we have available. With this publication we can possibly began to expand out.**
- II. Stigmatizing MSM as they are the only people who need PrEP when they are not by ignoring the fact that many women are on PrEP you are not only pushing the stigma of MSM but you are also feeding into the issues of shame and denial of women who may have partners that are positive or be positive themselves.

Break-out session, resource allocation exercise – how does the group propose to utilize the \$50K awarded through the CDC grant to engage the Faith Community in ending the HIV Epidemic (20mins)

-  Waiting on the addendum agreement
-  Wait on ideas from the faith base community on ideas as to where we should allocate the resources
- **Report back and next steps (10mins) – all**
-  Sending out the survey and getting results back by end of November